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ALLIANCE FOR DISASTER
MANAGEMENT
SRI LANKA

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Information Update



REPAIRED WHEELCHAIR FOR
SIX-YEAR-OLD THENUJA

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Rebuilding the lives and hopes of the community: Nepal – Post-Earthquake Endeavours



CHA as the core-facilitator of A-PAD Sri Lanka has been offering continued expertise to accelerate the initiatives taken on in Nepal following the devastating earthquakes of 7.8 magnitude on the Richter Scale on April 25, 2015 and a second one which followed on May 12, 2015 of a lesser but immense magnitude. As a continuing process, A-PAD has come forward to support the earthquake affected community to rebuild their lives and hopes and also, to strengthen local expertise and create disaster preparedness at the community level.

Jayanthi Somasekeram of CHA joined the International A-PAD team in Kathmandu from the 3rd to the 9th of August. "It was a good experience to engage in conversation with the representatives of the local partners who work for the development, peace and prosperity of their country. They cherished the contribution by the Sri Lankan people to the community affected by the earthquake and appreciated the efforts of the A-PAD,"

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Strategy session to carry forward National, Regional and International attention to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and the solutions needed

Executive Director of CHA, Mr Jeevan Thiagarajah was in Georgetown USA in late August on invitation to attend a series of sessions convening UN agencies and the international humanitarian community to conduct a dialogue on currently prevailing issues concerning Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

The full day seminar spanning eight and a half hours was inclusive of multiple sessions conducted on various areas of the topic in question, including :

- (i) where the international community is now with IDPs and what appears to be declining attention given to them, despite the increase in their number and the establishment of conceptual, legal and institutional frameworks for addressing their special needs;
- (ii) factors affecting the visibility of internal displacement, including the effects of mainstreaming IDPs into more general 'affected communities;' the reliance on international institutional arrangements that do not fully target or advocate for IDPs; the lack of international attention to prevention, and the limits of humanitarian action in addressing protection; the difficulties in achieving security and access in conflicts; the lack of political will for solutions to conflicts and the continued failure to involve development actors to address protracted situations; inadequate attention and resources for promoting IDP policies and laws and for developing stronger international ties with local authorities, NGOs, civil society and IDP associations;
- (iii) prioritize and discuss how best to address the challenges, including identifying the most effective institutional arrangements when it comes to prevention, protection and solutions; exploring how to frame internal displacement as a development issue and involve development actors.

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Ms Somasekaram recalls. Ms Somasekaram participated in various discussions with the local NGOs Tewa, Nagarik Aawaz and the Institution for Suitable Actions for Prosperity (ISAP) in developing the project proposal and accelerating the process. The representative from Sri Lanka also participated in a workshop organised by Nagarik Aawaz for the psychosocial volunteers in Dhadhingbesi, which was a brainstorming session held in order to identify the needs in the district and propose activities of the Peace and Philanthropy Centre to be built through the project. Also she met with the Chairman of Disaster Preparedness Network Nepal (DPNet Nepal) which is a national Network of organizations and individuals working in the field of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in Nepal.



Workshop for psychosocial volunteers in Dhadhingbesi and discussion with ISAP



(L) Discussion with Tewa and Nagarik Aawaz (R) Discussion with the Chairperson of DPNet



Sri Lanka Represents World Humanitarian Summit – Regional Consultation, South and Central Asia

The Deputy Executive Director of the CHA, Mr Firzan Hashim, joined a team comprising representatives from the government, private sector and civil society to represent Sri Lanka at the World Humanitarian Summit Regional Consultation for South and Central Asia held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan from 28 to 30 July 2015.

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National Psychosocial Forum Meeting

The Psychosocial Forum meeting for both August and September is planned to be held on the 11th of September 2015, at the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies auditorium, (No 01, Gower Street, Colombo 05) from 10.00 AM – 12.00 PM. Due to unavailability of a date and many other external factors, it was not possible to hold a forum meeting within the month of August. The September meeting will include presentations allocated for both August and September. One of the main presenters for the upcoming forum will be Emerge Sri Lanka. An email will be sent to all organizations and Forum Members confirming the date, times and the agenda for the said meeting.

Skill Development and Capacity Building for Children in Homes for the Disabled

The Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies is in discussion with the MoSS to conduct Skill-Development Training programs for children in selected disabled homes and capacity building programs for the staff of the said homes. The first training program will be conducted on the 21st of September 2015, at the Prithi Pura home, Wattala.

Distribution of the “Mental Health and Psychosocial Organizations in Sri Lanka 2013” Directory

The Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies with the technical support of the Asia Foundation, launched a Directory in “mental health and Psychosocial Organizations in Sri Lanka” in all three languages, along with the Database in 2013. CHA is now distributing the final batch of hard copies to organizations and individuals working in the social sector. An email has been sent out to all members and Organization in the CHA database notifying the availability of this directory. CHA is hoping to complete distribution by 31st September 2015.

Re- updating the Database of the Mental Health and Psychosocial Organizations for the Year 2015

The Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies with the technical support from the Asia Foundation launched a Directory in “mental health and Psychosocial Organizations in Sri Lanka” in all three languages, along with the Database in 2013. The Database will be re updated for the year 2015. CHA is sending out questionnaires to all members and organizations included in the 2013 directory to re update any changed information so that CHA can update the database for the year 2015.

If you are interested in joining future forums, receiving updates or other information, please contact our Psychosocial Coordinator, Ms Nishadhi Cruetz on 114061461 or psfcoord@cha.lk

The Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster management Sri Lanka

Interim Monitoring and Evaluation



The team from A-PAD MO in Japan in meeting on interim project progress with A-PAD Team in Sri Lanka

project staff in Sri Lanka and the A-PAD Sri Lanka Interim Report shared with the team from Japan at a meeting held at the CHA Office in Gower Street upon their arrival.

Megumi Kuwana and HyunSook Yun of A-PAD

Japan were in Sri Lanka on a Monitoring and Evaluation Mission from the 4th to the 9th of August. An interim project progress update was made by the

The team was able to visit the Jaffna District where a series of meetings were held with various stakeholders and beneficiaries; in particular with the GA of Jaffna and the Chairman of the CCIY. The team was also able to conduct Monitoring and Evaluation of A-PAD emergency relief disseminated in the form of tanks and buckets in the wake of the water contamination crisis in Jaffna. The team visited Thellipallai where they met with beneficiaries. Ms Kuwana and Ms Yun were able to meet with Mr Chandraratne Vithanage, Senior Assistant Secretary General of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce prior to their departure.

Monthly Network Meeting and Capacity Building Workshop



Deputy Executive Director of the CHA, Mr Firzan Hashim presents on A-PAD Sri Lanka activity

The monthly Network Meeting and capacity building activity for A-PAD Sri Lanka was held on the 31st of August 2015 at the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce. 63 attendees with a majority representation of the private sector, as well as the non-governmental sector were present. Mr Firzan Hashim, Deputy Executive Director of the CHA made a comprehensive presentation on the A-PAD and its establishment and achievements thus far, elaborating on its connectivity mechanism.

An interactive workshop hosted by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) was conducted by Mr Daniel Gilman of the UNOCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. The informative lecture captured the role of the Private Sector in humanitarian response with a focus on international experiences and response tools available.



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The multi-stakeholder approach to the World Humanitarian Summit brought together 200 participants across 16 countries representing academia, affected communities, civil society organizations, governments, media, national and international non-governmental organizations, private sector, Red Cross/Red Crescent movement, youth and UN agencies. The views and priorities in the national consultations held in Sri Lanka supported by Muslim Aid, Islamic Relief, Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies (CHA) and A-PAD SL were tabled at the regional consultation.

Central Finance donation of goods for 12 electrocuted men



Following a request to the A-PAD membership in late July for sanitary goods, medication and rations for 12 men of low-income backgrounds that were electrocuted in Colombo in late June following the crashing of a flag pole onto a high-power electric cable, Central Finance PLC, an active member of A-PAD Sri Lanka responded generously with a donation of 12 ration and relief packs containing around five items of immediate necessity for the victims earlier this month. Staff on-ground has packaged the goods which are ready for handover upon confirmation from the DMC.



(L) The decrepit wheelchair before repair (R) Thenuja in her new wheelchair pictured with her mother and brother

Repaired wheelchair for six-year-old Thenuja

Project staff in Colombo and Jaffna visited the family of Thenuja Vimalraj, a 6 year old girl-child born differently-abled in Thellipalai, who was in need of financial aid to repair her wheelchair which was donated to them years ago. Jaffna staff has reported that in cooperation with a local carpenter they were able to successfully restructure the wheelchair which is now fit for use. A-PAD bore the cost for both the repair and transport of the wheelchair to the relevant location for repair which exceeded the cost of renovation.

District Highlights—Hambantota

DRR Discussion on the Role of Youth in Preparation and Mitigation of Natural Disasters

A discussion on “the role of youth in preparation and mitigation of natural disasters” was conducted at the Ambalantota DS Office of the Ambalantota DS Division on the 27th of August 2015. 25 youth leaders, including the Youth Service Officer of the Ambalantota DS office, the Chairman, Secretary and Chief Organizer of the Ambalantota Federation of Youth Clubs were in attendance. The participants were divided into five groups and ideas and suggestions drawn. The workshop was conducted in liaison with the District Disaster Management Office of Hambantota. Mr Samantha Wickramage of the Disaster Management Centre in Hambantota conducted the conversation.



Monthly NGO Council Meeting

CHA District Officer, Ms Kilta Sriranganathan attended the monthly meeting conducted by the NGO Council at the NGO Council Meeting Hall, Jaffna on the 26th of August. The meeting was presided over by Mr J Thatparan, President of the NGO council. 25 participants were present and upcoming activities funded by donor agency Diakonia were discussed.

CBDRR PROJECT - JAFFNA DISTRICT



Workshop on Disaster Psychosocial Response for youth in Jaffna

A workshop was held on Disaster Psychosocial Response at the Centre for Children's Happiness premises under the Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction programme. It was conducted for the benefit of the youth, a majority of whom were from the University of Jaffna. The workshop was held on the 2nd of August and 21 participants, 9 male and 12 female, attended the workshop.

CBDRR PROJECT - MULLAITIVU DISTRICT

Four DRR workshops were conducted in the Mullaitivu District this month for various sectors of the community. Two of the workshops held were on Disaster Psychosocial Response and another two on Water Management. The workshops focused on youth, school children and women.



Meeting Highlights - August

Date	Topic	Venue	District/Country
4-Aug-2015	Project Team Meeting - A-PAD and CBDRR	CHA Gower St	Colombo
5-Aug-2015	Meeting with CCIY Jaffna	CCiy Jaffna Office	Jaffna
5-Aug-2015	Meeting with Thellipalai District Secretariat	DS Office Thellipalai, Jaffna	Jaffna
6-Aug-2015	Meeting with District Secretariat - Kayts Island	DS Office Kayts Island	Jaffna Kayts
7-Aug-2015	Meeting with Mr Chandraratna Vithanage of CCC	CCC Colombo	Colombo
7-Aug-2015	Wrap up meeting with team from Japan - A-PAD Project	CHA Gower St	Colombo
14-Aug-2015	Final meeting with internal team for the National Consultation for the WHS	CHA, Gower Street	Colombo
21-Aug-2015	Meeting with Anoja of Disaster Management Centre	CHA Gower St	Colombo
24-Aug-2015	Internal meeting with District Officers	CHA Gower St	Colombo
24-Aug-2015	Discussion on National, Regional And International Attention to IDPs at Georgetown University	Georgetown University	USA
31-Aug-2015	A-PAD Monthly Network Meeting	Ceylon Chamber of Commerce	Colombo

#1 GOWER STREET ART CENTRE FACILITY

No 1 Gower Street has a fully equipped, air-conditioned ground floor conference hall which can double as an exhibition gallery and art centre, available at a concessionary rate for the use of young artists who wish to showcase their artwork, conduct poetry evenings or book readings, book launches, exhibit photography and other performing arts events. The space can comfortably seat 50 people.

In addition, the hall dips out across the veranda onto a front yard able to seat 60 number of people which could also be utilised for outdoor events such as musical evenings and small-scale performances.

For more information please visit us at **No 1, Gower Street, Colombo 05** or visit our website <http://www.humanitariansrilanka.org/> or contact Stanley/Svetlana on 011 4061461 (email info@cha.lk)

(Ample free and secure parking available)

No 1, Gower Street, Colombo 05.

Tel/Fax: 011—4061461 Ext. 134

E—mail: info@cha.lk

The Information Update is also available on the CHA website:

<http://www.humanitarian-srilanka.org>

For further information please contact Svetlana Abeysekara on info@cha.lk

